

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1640

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BF
SUBJECT: DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE BAHAMAS - AMBASSADOR'S MEETING
WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY

REF STATE 180994

1. ONE OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING MY JUL 31 MEETING WITH MINISTER
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL PAUL ADDERLEY (NASSAU 1613)
WAS DRUG TRAFFICKING AND NARCOTICS CONTROL.

2. I EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER IN SOME DETAIL THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL
ON TRAFFICKING IN THE BAHAMAS. WE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS THE
WHOLE PROBLEM OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND ADDERLEY MENTIONED ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS THE DIFFICULTY OF POLICING THE BAHAMAS WITH "SO DAMN MUCH
WATER" AND "WITH SO DAMN MANY LITTLE ISLANDS," STATING THAT IT WAS
NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO.

3. I MADE CLEAR TO MINISTER ADDERLEY THE DESIRE OF THE USG TO
COOPERATE EVEN MORE THAN WE ARE PRESENTLY, INCLUDING SUCH PROGRAMS AS
POSSIBLE FURNISHING BOATS, OTHER EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND THE LIKE, IN

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS. I NOTED THAT INCREASED COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS WOULD DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON A STRONG COMMITMENT FROM GCOB
THAT THEY WOULD FULLY PARTICIPATE AND FOLLOW-UP ON ANY PROGRAMS
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DEvised, AND THAT AN EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT ON THE PART
OF THE GOVT WOULD BE LOOKED FOR BY THE USG.

4. MINISTER ADDERLEY WAS EXTREMELY RECEPTIVE AND INTERESTED, BUT
INDICATED AT THE OUTSET THAT HE FELT HIS GOVT HAD ALREADY GIVEN A
STRONG COMMITMENT WITHIN THEIR LIMITED RESOURCES. HE POINTED OUT THAT
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE PAUL THOMPSON PROBABLY GAVE MORE TIME

AND EFFORT TO THIS PROBLEM THAN ANY OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY. HE SAID THOMPSON AND HE BOTH HAVE STRONG PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WANT TO RID THE BAHAMAS OF IT. NEVERTHELESS, ADDERLEY SAID, POSSIBLY TOO MUCH TIME, BASED ON THEIR LIMITED PERSONNEL, WAS ALREADY BEING SPENT ON NARCOTICS CONTROL.

5. I RAISED THE IDEA OF A NARCOTICS CONTROL SURVEY TEAM COMING FROM THE US (AS WE DISCUSSED IN THE EMBASSY WITH MR. BOB DOWNEY, S/NM, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE) TO REVIEW THE GCOB'S NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT NEEDS. ADDERLEY INDICATED THAT A SURVEY TEAM COULD COME IF IT WERE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION, BUT HE SAID HE THOUGHT ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO THE USG WAS IN MIAMI. HE COMMENTED THAT US ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM MIAMI WORK IN THE BAHAMAS ALL THE TIME AND THAT THEY OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT THE ENFORCEMENT NEEDS OF THE GCOB ARE. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE USG ITSELF COME UP WITH A MORE SPECIFIC PLAN FOR COOPERATION. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT WE TELL THE GCOB WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AS FAR AS A JOINT EFFORT WAS CONCERNED. HOW WOULD WE SUGGEST MORE COOPERATION THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW? WOULD ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REALLY BE MEANINGFUL?, HE ASKED.

6. WHEN I ASKED ADDERLEY HOW HE FELT ABOUT RECEIVING WITHOUT CHARGE SOME BOATS THAT HAD BEEN SEIZED BY US CUSTOMS, HE RESPONDED THAT IF IT WERE UP TO HIM HE WOULD ACCEPT THEM, BUT THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING IN WHICH MAYBE THE CABINET WOULD HAVE TO BECOME INVOLVED. HE SAID IT SOUNDED AS THOUGH THE GCOB MIGHT NEED A SPECIFIC GROUP OR TEAM
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(REGARDLESS OF HOW SMALL) TO BE DESIGNATED THEIR "DRUG ENFORCEMENT TEAM," BUT ADDED THAT HE WASN'T CERTAIN THEY HAD THE MANPOWER OR THE RESOURCES TO DO THIS.

7. THERE IS NO QUESTION, I RPT NO QUESTION, IN MY MIND THAT ADDERLEY HIMSELF IS FULLY COMMITTED TO HIS GOVT'S TAKING A VERY STRONG ATTITUDE

ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT, WHICH HE SINCERELY BELIEVES THEY ARE ALREADY DOING. I SENSED THAT ADDERLEY WAS TRYING TO TELL ME THAT THE FINAL DECISIONS IN THIS AREA ARE NOT ALL HIS, BUT THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP HIS HAND ON THIS SUBJECT. HE REQUESTED US TO GIVE HIM IN MORE DETAIL WHAT WE ENVISION AS A JOINT COOPERATIVE EFFORT AND WHAT SPECIFICALLY THAT MIGHT ENTAIL ON THE PART OF THE BAHAMIAN GOVT. HE SAID THAT HE MAY THEN DIRECT US EITHER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, OR MAKE THE DECISIONS HIMSELF, OR RAISE IT TO CABINET LEVEL.

8. PARENTHETICALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT ADDERLEY TOLD ME THAT THE TRIAL OF THE TWO PERSONS APPREHENDED AT BIMINI SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH 250 ODD POUNDS OF COCAINE WAS STARTING ON THE DAY OF OUR MEETING. THIS IS THE TRIAL WHERE BAIL WAS SET AT ONE

AND ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WAS TOO HIGH TO BE POSTED. I HAD

MADE A CALL ON ADDERLEY JUST THE DAY BEFORE BAIL WAS SET FOR THESE PEOPLE, AND I AM CONVINCED THAT IT WAS THROUGH OUR CONVERSATION THAT ADDERLEY PASSED WORD THAT HE WANTED A HIGH BAIL SET FOR THEM. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE TRIED TO HAVE THEM DENIED BAIL, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GO THAT FAR.

9. ROBERT E. DOWNEY'S (S/NM) REPORT OF JUL 26 CONCERNING HIS MEETING WITH CUSTOMS, COAST GUARD AND DEA REPS IN THE MIAMI REGION WAS RECEIVED AFTER MY MEETING WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM MR. DOWNEY'S REPORT THAT THE GROUP HE MET WITH ALREADY HAVE SOME VERY SPECIFIC IDEAS AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE END-RESULT OF THE ALREADY EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN USG AND GCOB. DOWNEY'S REPORT STATES "...THAT A SURVEY SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSESS THE NEEDS AND EVALUATE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BAHAMIAN GOVT." IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JUDGEMENT OF THE EMBASSY, SUCH A TEAM SHOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY. IF IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE SURVEY WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN THE NORMAL TYPE OF CONTACT ALREADY EXISTING BETWEEN USG AND GCOB LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, THE EMBASSY WILL HAVE TO GET PRIOR SPECIFIC CLEARANCE FROM MINISTER ADDERLEY. IF SURVEY TEAM CAN WORK WITHIN THEIR NORMAL FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS THEN IT SHOULD PROCEED PROMPTLY. WHEN TEAM IS READY FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WE SHOULD THEN ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY AND GIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIM RPT HIM AND NO ONE ELSE. EMBASSY REPEATS THAT USG MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO LACK OF DESIRE ON PART OF GCOB BUT THERE IS A DEFINITE LACK OF CAPABILITY BOTH IN MANPOWER AND MONEY.

10. EMBASSY WILL BE RESPONDING TO STATE 180994 SHORTLY.
SCHWARTZ

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Message Attributes

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